ARGENTUM:

OR,

ADVENTURES

OF

A SHILLING.

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MDCCXCIV.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

COUNTESS FITZWILLIAM,

WHO,

In an Age of Vice and Diſſipation,

Has rendered herſelf celebrated,

NOT FOR

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES,

BUT

DOMESTIC VIRTUES,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED

With the moſt unfeigned Reſpect;

And with the ſincere Wiſh,

" That ſhe may long remain, what ſhe now is,

One of the *beſt* and *happieſt*

OF

WIVES AND MOTHERS."

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE

COUNTESS FITZWILLIAM,

WHO,

In an Age of Vice and Dissipation,

Has resigned herself entirely

NOT FOR

FASHIONABLE FOLLIES,

BUT

DOMESTIC VIRTUES,

THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED

With the most unfeigned Respect;

And with the sincere Wish,

"That the may long remain, what she now is,

One of the few and happy

OF

WIVES AND MOTHERS."

ARGENTUM, &c.

CHAP. I.

" I ran it o'er,
" E'en from my boyiſh days."
SHAKESPEARE's *Othello*.

WHEN a poor fellow has been executed (no matter, thanks to the impartial mode of puniſhment eſtabliſhed by our code of criminal law! whether 'tis for the enormous crime of robbing a man of a penny on the

A King's

King's highway, and putting him— as all cowards muſt naturally be— in ſome bodily fear; or for the petty one, of ſending a fellow-creature into eternity,

" with all his imperfections on his head"—

heighten'd too, if, in ſuch a ſtate, any aggravation were poſſible, by every ſpecies of inſult and ſavage barbarity; when, in either of theſe caſes, an *equal* atonement has been made at the gallows), our Engliſh ſervants, eſpecially the female claſs, wait impatiently for the arrival of the firſt hawker in their ſtreet. and reach forth their halfpenny with alacrity, to attain the deſirable information of the poor wretch's " laſt dying ſpeech and confeſſion— " birth, parentage, and education."

Nine

Nine readers out of ten, in ſome meaſure, reſemble them: the only difference is, the readers wiſh to have their ſhare of the above-mentioned intelligence on their hero's entrance into life; the ſervants reſt ſatisfied with their knowledge, after he has made his final exit.

I muſt confeſs, it is out of my power to mention all the particulars of my birth, or, rather, formation. Suffice it to ſay, that, after I had gone through a deal of torture, I diſcovered, by the letters imprinted on me, that I belonged to *George the Third, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Duke of Brunſwick and Lunenburgh, Arch-Treaſurer and Elector of the holy Roman Empire.*

I did not, however, ſtay long in his immediate ſervice; for, ſhortly after, awaking, in the afternoon, from a comfortable nap that I had fallen into, I was not a little ſurprized to find myſelf in the waiſtcoat-pocket of a young gentleman, ſeemingly, about the age of ſeventeen.

He was accompanied by his uncle; and we were bowling away in a poſt-chaiſe over the rough pavement at Colnbrook.

A dead ſilence reigned, for ſome time, in our vehicle; which was, at length, broken by the junior, with an emotion of joy, on his catching a view of the

" Diſtant ſpires and antique tow'rs,
" That crown the wat'ry glade,
" Where grateful *Science* ſtill adores
" Her *Henry's* holy ſhade! "

A ſhort converſation took place ere we reached *Slough*; whence turning down the lane, to the left, eight minutes brought us to

" Green *Eton*—ſoft abode of ev'ry Muſe."

CHAP. II.

" Their's buxom Health, of roſy hue,
" Wild Wit, Invention ever new,
" And lovely Cheer of Vigour born;
" The thoughtleſs day, the eaſy night,
" The ſpirits pure, the ſlumbers light,
" That fly th' approach of morn."

GRAY.

HARCOURT (for ſuch was my owner's name) was welcom'd, as he jump'd out of the chaiſe at the *Chriſtopher*, by half a ſcore of his ſchool-fellows—and he, in return, ſhook hands with each individual with great glee and cordiality.

The

The two kinſmen then retired into a room, and ordered an handſome dinner.

Their repaſt being finiſh'd, " Well, " now, George, (ſays the ſenior, pul- " ling out his purſe,) name your ſum, " and hold out your hand."—

" My dear, generous Uncle (re- " plied Harcourt), how can you ſup- " poſe I want money? Do you forget " that it was only Wedneſday you " gave me a bank-note?"

" Well, it is of no conſequence, " George, for I ſhall be at *Eton* again " in a fortnight or three weeks; you " know I cannot be abſent from you " long. Only let me hear as favour-

" able reports of your conduct from " your tutor as I have hitherto re- " ceived, and whilſt I have a guinea, " my boy, you ſhall never want the " half of it. Fare you well!"

" Farewell, my generous friend," ſaid Harcourt; the tear of gratitude ſpringing into his eye whilſt he preſt the proffered hand of his uncle betwixt his own, " farewell! and take " with you the bleſſings of your or- " phan kinſman wherever you go!"

The ſenior then ſtept into the chaiſe: Harcourt went back into the room in which they had been ſitting, where he gave ten minutes to the reflecting on his own happineſs in having ſo valuable a friend; and then,

then, with a light heart and ſmiling countenance, ſkipped acroſs the way to his dame's.

Bleſt with that endearing quality, an amiable temper, and with talents of a very ſuperior kind, it was no wonder that he was an univerſal favourite, both with his maſters and his ſchool-fellows—yet ſuch was his extraordinary vivacity of diſpoſition, that he was perpetually involved in ſome unlucky ſcrape.

" Naturâ ſublimis et acer,"

he always made one amongſt thoſe young adventurers who treated with

" diſdain
" The limits of their little reign,
" And unknown regions dar'd deſcry.—"

of

of which the following anecdote afforded a pretty plain proof; the circumſtance actually happened whilſt I was in his poſſeſſion.

On every holiday it is the cuſtom at Eton for the names of the boys to be called over every two hours: the propriety of this muſt be too obvious to need any comment.

On one of theſe holidays, Harcourt and three or four of his companions, at breakfaſt, were talking of the races at Aſcot-Heath.

Some famous horſes were to ſtart—"He thought he ſhould like to go."

The Royal Family, and a great deal of company, it was expected, would be there.

" He was *ſure* he ſhould like it."

It was a very fine day.

" He would go."

But three or four of the maſters were to be there.

" Now, he was *determined* on going, " as, if he did not, it would be thought " that he was afraid."

In ſhort, this mad-headed youth went immediately to the White Hart at Windſor, and ordered one of their beſt horſes to be ready exactly at twelve—he left his boots there to be in readineſs; as his appearing in them at the college might create ſuſpicion.

At twelve, accordingly, he anſwered to his name—ran, like a deer, up to the inn, was booted, mounted his horſe, and, muffled up in a great-coat and ſlouch'd hat, gallop'd full-ſpeed to Aſcot Heath; ſaw an excellent heat, turned his horſe's head towards Windſor, gallop'd back, pull'd off his boots and great-coat, and arrived in ſufficient time to anſwer to his name again at the two o'clock call.

Situated as Harcourt was, it was next to an impoſſibility that he could be otherwiſe than happy.

An *Oppidan* *—a *Præpoſtor* †—attached

* Derived from the Latin *oppidum*, anſwering to what country ſchools generally term a *town-boy*.

tached to the claſſics and to literature in general, ſo that his reading was a pleaſure inſtead of a grievance—with a fine flow of volatile ſpirits, and money at command—under ſuch circumſtances, and with youth and health, no part of his life could bring *greater* happineſs; and the chances were infi-

town-boy. Of the hundreds that are educated at Eton, only *ſeventy* belong to the College; all the reſt being Oppidans, who are not under half the *reſtraint* that the Collegers are ſubject to. What, however, the latter loſe in the article of *liberty*, they gain in that of *learning*.

‡ Derived from *præpono*. A few boys (or, rather, young men), who are at the upper part of the ſchool, are termed *Præpoſtors*. Having fairly attained this enviable diſtinction by their own talents and application, they are then put into poſſeſſion of many laudable privileges; ſuch, indeed, as might be deſcribed, but which only an Etonian (who is already apprized of them) could *feel*.

nitely

nitely againſt him, that any future period of it would be *equally* ſo.

He was an exception, however, to Pope's rough, jerking line,

"Man never is, but always to be bleſt—"

for he was too conſcious of his happineſs to give one thought or wiſh towards any increaſe of it.

I was ſo much attached to Harcourt, that I parted from him with reluctance: but I was ſeldom fortunate enough to continue long in the poſſeſſion of thoſe for whom I entertained either affection or eſteem.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

"Thou, Nature, art my Goddeſs!"

SHAKESPEARE.

IN the circulation of a few days I became the property of a gentleman, who, I afterwards learned, was a Frenchman by birth; but whom I certainly ſhould not have diſcovered to have been ſo, from any deficiency in his uſe of the Engliſh language, which he ſpoke with great fluency.

He had reſided in England ſome time, and was univerſally reſpected by his acquaintance for his integrity of conduct as well as politeneſs of manners:

manners: he certainly poſſeſſed no ſmall ſhare of what Lord Cheſterfield ſo much inſiſted on—the *ſuaviter in modo, et fortiter in re.*

His hiſtory was ſomewhat ſingular; which I, one day, heard him relate to a particular friend, and which I ſhall give in his own words.

I muſt premiſe, that the latter had, in ſpeaking with great contempt of ſome-one, obſerved, "that he was a "good-for-nothing baſtard of Lord "M—'s."

"I hope (ſaid the other, ſmiling "good-naturedly) you have not an "unqualified averſion to *all* who come "under the deſcription; becauſe, "ſhould that be the caſe, you muſt, "I fear,

" I fear, renounce my acquaintance
" amongſt the reſt. I, moſt aſſured-
" ly, belong to that claſs.—Though
" (continued he) as my mother has
" been many years—what you Eng-
" liſh call—made an honeſt woman
" of, perhaps you will allow an act
" of grace for me as an individual."

" I beg your pardon, my dear ſir—
" (replied his friend)—and, I truſt,
" you will give me credit, when I
" affirm, upon my honour, I meant
" not the leaſt offence to you."

" How was it poſſible you could,"
ſaid Monſieur Clairville, " when
" you were ignorant of the circum-
" ſtance!—Beſides, what proceeds
" only from misfortune, your libera-

" lity of ſentiment would never im-
" pute to me as a fault.

" I cannot indeed ſay, with Savage,
" that

" I glory in a baſtard's glowing name:

" but, I own, I never ſuffered any
" great degree of diſquietude from
" the circumſtance—and, to convince
" you of the truth of my aſſertion, I
" will relate to you my hiſtory.

" My grandfather was a man of
" rank and diſtinction in one of the
" Southern provinces of France.

" My mother was his only child;
" and the hour of her birth had made
" him a widower.

" He

" He brought her up in a manner
" that, he thought, would be ſuit-
" able to her future deſtination in
" life.

" When her education was finiſh-
" ed, ſhe was attended by a numerous
" train of ſuitors, all of whom, for
" various reaſons, chiefly founded on
" *pride* or *prejudice*, were rejected by
" her father. Amongſt the reſt was
" Clairville: his graceful addreſs—
" his inſinuating manner—his deli-
" cate attentions—theſe, which gain
" ſo much upon the affections of the
" fair ſex in general, were not thrown
" away upon my mother.

" When compared with her other
" admirers, he ſhone

" velut inter ignes
" Luna minores.

" With that candid ingeunouſneſs
" that became her, both as a woman
" and a daughter, ſhe confeſſed to
" her father her partiality for Clair-
" ville. He ought, in return, at
" leaſt to have commended her truth
" and candour; but he was enraged
" at the circumſtance—

" What!—Clairville!—He has no
" eſtate worth mentioning—how does
" he dare then to aſpire to the hand
" of my daughter?"

" He is a gentleman, ſir, by birth,
" by his behaviour, and by his rank
" as an officer in the army."

" He

" He may be ſo—but the daugh-
" ter of St. Pierre is entitled to an
" alliance with one of the firſt fami-
" lies in France.—Let me not hear
" this Clairville named again."

" She was too well acquainted with
" the ſtern obduracy of her father's
" diſpoſition, to repeat the mention
" of her eſteem for Clairville;—to
" conquer her affection for him was
" not now in her power.

" I wiſh not to dwell on the cir-
" cumſtance of my mother's frailty.—
" Suffice it to ſay, ſhe erred, and, as
" you will find, ſuffered ſeverely for
" her error. Indeed, as far as I have
" obſerved, through life, puniſhment
" has generally, ſooner or later, been
" the attendant on guilt.

" Even previouſly to my birth, the " anxiety, the perturbation of mind, " that ſhe underwent——

" Were greater than it is in your " power to deſcribe"—(interrupting him)—" Her ingenuous conduct to- " wards her father has convinced me " of it."

" I thank you; you are right: but " to proceed.

" By the ſucceſs of Clairville's " ſchemes, my mother was ſafely and " privately delivered of me at the " houſe of a female relation, to whom " ſhe had gone ſome time before to " pay a viſit, and under the pretence " (or, to ſpeak more properly, re- " ality) of indiſpoſition.

" On the fidelity and ſecrecy of " this lady was placed their whole " dependence; nor were they deceived " in her.

" Almoſt immediately after the " birth of her infant, and before he " had an opportunity even of ſeeing " his child, the regiment to which " Clairville belonged was ordered " abroad.

" He took an opportunity, how- " ever, of ſending a polite and grate- " ful letter to the lady who had the " care of his child, and incloſed " another for my mother.

" In it he preſſed her earneſtly to " reveal the circumſtance of my birth " to her father; aſſuring her, with the

" greateſt tenderneſs, that his affec-
" tion towards her, ſo far from being
" abated, was, if poſſible, increaſed;
" and that St. Pierre's conſent to
" their being married would make
" him the happieſt of men.

" This letter, as you may ſuppoſe,
" afforded her no ſmall conſolation;
" but, earneſtly as ſhe wiſhed to com-
" ply with Clairville's requeſt, her
" fears prevented her.

" Soon after, ſhe returned to her
" father, leaving me in the care of
" her friend; and in this ſtate of anxi-
" ety (which ſhe little thought could
" admit of increaſe) ſhe paſſed near
" three years, receiving, occaſionally,
" letters from my father, incloſed in
" thoſe of her friend.

" About

About this time

" About this time the letters of the
" latter were more intereſting than
" thoſe of Clairville; they brought
" her a moſt diſagreeable piece of in-
" formation, viz. that ſome unfore-
" ſeen circumſtances obliged her to
" viſit England for a time—and how
" was her child to be diſpoſed of

" Her maternal feelings were now
" more powerful than her fears; and
" though ſhe poſſeſſed not fortitude
" ſufficient to enable her to make the
" confeſſion, which Clairville had ſo
" earneſtly requeſted, to her father,
" yet ſhe felt ſhe could bear the riſque
" of my being diſcovered by St.
" Pierre with more eaſe than ſhe
" could my removal to a foreign
" country.

" She

" She knew it was abſolutely im-
" poſſible that I could be concealed
" in her father's old chateau without
" making her maid a confidant; ſhe
" therefore acted liberally towards
" her, both in preſent gifts and in
" promiſes for the future; nor had
" ſhe any reaſon to repent her being
" entruſted with the ſecret.

" The ingenuity of females—their
" fertile invention—is celebrated even
" to a proverb.

" By the contrivance of my mother,
" her friend, and her attendant, I
" was brought into her apartments
" without the circumſtance being
" known to any perſon belonging to
" the houſehold of St. Pierre: the
" lady, after remaining with my
" mother

" mother a few days, ſet forward on
" her way to England.

" St. Pierre had, at her requeſt,
" and without the leaſt ſuſpicion, al-
" lotted his daughter three rooms, for
" herſelf and her attendant, in one
" corner of the old manſion.

" She had obſerved, one day, as if
" by accident, that the apartments
" which ſhe was then in poſſeſſion of
" were extremely cold (which was
" really the caſe), and that theſe,
" fronting the South, and command-
" ing a beautiful and extenſive pro-
" ſpect, were infinitely preferable.

" St. Pierre naturally, and with the
" greateſt readineſs, acquieſced in her
" opinion.

" Out

" Out of the firſt of theſe rooms
" there was a door which opened into
" another, which my mother fixed on
" as her bed-chamber; and the inner-
" moſt of the three (which, you will
" imagine, was deſtined for my habi-
" tation alſo) was appropriated, for
" the ſame uſe, to her attendant.

" Of courſe, neither St. Pierre nor
" the ſervants ever had occaſion to
" enter any of theſe, except the firſt.

" Their chief fear was, that my
" health would be injured by ſuch
" cloſe confinement. The rooms,
" however, (as is generally the caſe
" in theſe old manſions,) were airy and
" ſpacious, and, at ſtated times in the
" day, I had the range of them all.

" The

" The variety was certainly not " very great which was gained by it; " yet was it to me of ſo much conſe- " quence, that the greateſt puniſh- " ment inflicted on me was, to confine " me during the whole day to my " own apartment, whenever, in the " thoughtleſſneſs of that tender age, " I had been tempted to make ſuch a " noiſe as excited their fears of my " being diſcovered.

" This puniſhment appeared to me " ſo ſevere that I do not remember to " have ſuffered it more than twice " during the whole time of my im- " priſonment.

" Maternal tenderneſs invented a " thouſand little ſports to amuſe the " fancy of her child.

" The

" The being abſent from me " (though even under the ſame roof) " had ever been a ſource of the great- " eſt uneaſineſs to her, as her fears " were then '*tremblingly alive*;' but " it was now become doubly irkſome. " She was teazed by the addreſſes of " one whom St. Pierre earneſtly wiſhed " to have for his ſon-in-law; and, as " it had been with the utmoſt diffi- " culty that he had ſelected one to his " own ſatisfaction, he was now equally " ardent in his endeavours to gain the " accompliſhment of his wiſh.

" His daughter, too much attached " to Clairville to beſtow one mo- " ment's thought on any other lover, " could ſcarcely bring herſelf to re- " ceive his addreſſes with common " politeneſs.

" St.

" St. Pierre too plainly ſaw through
" the reſtraint which ſhe had impoſed
" on herſelf, and, with great harſhneſs,
" informed her, that ſhe muſt make
" up her mind, either to receive him
" as her huſband, or the veil in a
" neighbouring convent.

" Too well acquainted with the
" diſpoſition of her father, which,
" Achilles-like,

" *iracundus, inexorabilis, acer,*

" would bear no contradiction to his
" will; her thoughts were wholly en-
" groſſed by the idea of what un-
" avoidable evils muſt befal her child,
" ſhould he put his threat, relative to
" the convent, into execution.

" This preyed upon her ſpirits and
" her health, and had brought her to

" the

" the very verge of confeſſing every
" thing to her father; when an acci-
" dent, one night, rendered her ex-
" planation unneceſſary, by making
" the diſcovery for her."

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Connubio jungam ſtabili, propriumque dicabo.
VIRGIL.

" THROUGH the careleſſneſs of a
" ſervant, a fire broke out in one of
" the lower apartments, and had made
" a conſiderable progreſs before it was
" perceived.

" St. Pierre's valet was the firſt
" who diſcovered it. He immedi-
" ately alarm'd his maſter, who, whilſt
" he was hurrying on his clothes,
" ordered the man to apprize his
" daughter of the danger.

" St. Pierre in a ſhort time followed
" the ſervant; when the firſt object
" that preſented itſelf to his ſight was
" his daughter, carrying me in her
" arms.

" Her confuſion and diſtreſs on thus
" meeting her father were unſpeak-
" able; and theſe, added to the ter-
" ror occaſioned by the preceding
" alarm, were too much for her—ſhe
" let me drop from her arms, and
" ſunk ſenſeleſs on the ground.

" It is impoſſible to paint the ſur-
" prize into which her father was
" thrown at this unfortunate diſco-
" very. He entertained not a mo-
" ment's doubt to whom the child
" belong'd, from the ſtriking reſem-
" blance I bore to my mother, whom

" her

" her attendant and another ſervant
" carried into one of the lower rooms;
" and ſoon after the fire was extin-
" guiſhed.

" What tumultuous and dire paſ-
" ſions invaded the breaſt of St. Pierre
" I can only conjecture from the con-
" ſequence.

" I was carried the ſame evening
" by two men to a foreſt at ſome diſ-
" tance; and can remember one of
" them making uſe of much perſua-
" ſion with the other, *not to hurt me,*
" *but to leave me there* (as was his ex-
" preſſion) *to ſhift for myſelf.*

" The other was bent on my death,
" ſtrenuouſly urging the great reward
" which they were to receive.

 " This

" This man had placed me on the
" ground, and was preparing to ſtrike
" a dagger which he held in his hand,
" when a piſtol was fired.

" He dropp'd down inſtantaneouſly
" —nor ever roſe again!

" His companion immediately fled.

" A perſon now came up to me,
" who proved to be a captain of ban-
" ditti which infeſted the foreſt, and,
" probably ſtruck with compaſſion at
" my helpleſs ſituation, took me up
" in his arms, and carried me to a
" cavern where he and his compa-
" nions lived.

" Theſe ſons of rapine treated me
" with the greateſt humanity and ten-

" derneſs;

" derneſs; and, had it not been for
" the uneaſineſs that I experienc'd
" from not ſeeing my mother and her
" attendant as uſual, I ſhould have
" been very happy in my new ſituation.

" The banditti at this time were
" become very cautious in their ex-
" curſions, having heard that the
" military had been call'd in to put
" a ſtop to their depredations; which
" was really the caſe.

" When I had been with them
" about a week, all the robbers, their
" captain only excepted, went out
" early in the morning on ſome ex-
" pedition.

" He alſo, in the middle of the
" day, left me for about a quarter of

" an hour, and return'd, forcibly
" bringing back with him into the
" cave—my mother! who, by tears,
" entreaties, and, perhaps, other ar-
" guments ſtill more powerful, had
" perſuaded the man, who brought me
" into the foreſt, to point out the
" place where he had left me, and to
" aſſiſt her in her ſearch.

" Courage, however, (as has been
" ſeen before,) was not amongſt his
" virtues; and, on perceiving a per-
" ſon advancing towards them with
" a piſtol in his hand, he, a ſecond
" time, fled.

" The captain of the gang then
" came up to my mother, who at-
" tempted to follow the ſervant, but

" was

" was ſoon overtaken, and forcibly
" dragg'd back.

" Her fears, for a moment, gave
" way to her joy, at the ſight of her
" child: but, the robber proceeding to
" treat her with rudeneſs, ſhe ſhriek'd
" violently. I, terrified, ran crying
" out of the cavern, and perceiving
" an officer and ſome ſoldiers at a
" little diſtance, haſten'd towards
" them, begging earneſtly of them
" to go back with me, and help my
" mother.

" Clairville—(for it was he himſelf,
" who, having lately return'd to his
" native country, had been ſent, at
" the head of the military, in ſearch
" of the banditti) immediately fol-
" low'd me, unknowing by how near

 " a tie

" a tie his little conductor was allied
" to him, and, by his timely inter-
" poſition, fruſtrated the vile attempt
" of the robber, whom his party ſe-
" cured.

" Your imagination will ſuggeſt,
" better than my words can convey to
" you, the mutual ſurprize and joy
" of Clairville and my mother at this
" unexpected meeting.

" They had ſcarcely communicated
" to each other the different purpoſes
" with which each had come to the
" foreſt, and my father had embraced
" me with the greateſt tenderneſs,
" ere another party brought in the
" banditti, whom they had appre-
" hended.

" With

" With them came St. Pierre and
" ſome of his attendants, who had
" been reſcued from the attack made
" upon them by the latter; in which
" St. Pierte, from his impetuous paſ-
" ſion and obſtinate reſiſtance, would
" have fallen a victim to their rage,
" had it not been for the ſeaſonable
" aid of the ſoldiers.

" He (as you may ſuppoſe) had
" follow'd his daughter the moment
" ſhe was miſs'd.

" Perhaps Fortune could not have
" fix'd on a more favourable moment,
" for Clairville to urge to St. Pierre
" his paſſion for his daughter than
" the preſent.

" His

" His mind, ſoften'd by the timely
" relief which he had received when
" in ſuch imminent danger (and that
" relief coming from the very corps
" over which Clairville preſided),
" made him view a ſoldier in a light
" far different from that in which he
" had been wont to conſider him.

" On ſeeing me kneeling and hold-
" ing up my little hands to him, it
" is natural to conclude that he was
" ſtruck with remorſe at the idea of
" the cruel fate to which he had deſ-
" tined me.

" He heſitated not long—but took
" me up in his arms—kiſs'd me—
" and turning to his daughter, who
" was kneeling, with Clairville ſup-
" porting her, he bleſs'd her—then,

" moving

" moving his eyes towards the latter,
" Take her (ſaid he)—you are, I be-
" lieve, worthy of her."

" Clairville and my mother are
" both living at this time. His con-
" duct as an huſband and a father,
" both towards me and my legitimate
" brothers, has been unexception-
" able: and he has amply *approved*
" himſelf what St. Pierre *believ'd* him
" to be.

" Such," concluded the ſon of Clair-
ville, " is my ſtory. The reaſons
" which induced me to reſide in
" England you are well acquainted
" with. My political opinions it is
" not my buſineſs or my wiſh to in-
" trude upon the world: but thus far
" gratitude will urge me to declare—

" that

" that my moſt hearty good wiſhes
" are due to the country that gave me
" ſuch a friendly reception—in which
" I have ſpent ſo many happy months
" —and the laws of which, generally
" ſpeaking, claim both my admira-
" tion and reverence."

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

" Parcere ſubjectis.——"

VIRG.

LEAVING Clairville, I fell into the hands of a young gentleman, of the name of Hammond.

He had lately married a very agreeable lady, whom, the moment after I fell into his poſſeſſion, he ſet off to meet, and eſcort to her new habitation.

He met her, accompanied by his ſiſter, at Dartford, where they dined —paſs'd through the metropolis—

changing

changing horſes only, and Hammond mounting one of his own which had been left for him—and were, at the duſk of the evening, croſſing Hounſlow Heath, in their way to his ſeat in Berkſhire, when they were ſtopp'd by an highwayman.

Hammond immediately fired his piſtol; the ſudden report of which cauſed the horſe which the highwayman rode to run away with him over the heath.

Hammond had no ſervant with him, but with more raſhneſs than prudence —more impetuous intrepidity than cool deliberation—he inſtantly purſued the man, whoſe horſe, juſt as he came up, ſtumbled in a rut and threw him.

The other immediately jump'd off his, and advanc'd towards the fallen man, who haſtily cried out " Fire— " fire! I entreat you—Death will be " mercy—but do not—oh do not " ſuffer me to be expoſed."

There was a plaintiveneſs as well as energy in this addreſs that awaken'd all the compaſſion of my benevolent owner, who replied, " Give up your " arms, to convince me that you in- " tend no foul play, and you ſhall " not be expoſed by me—are you " hurt by your fall?"

The other replied in the negative, and putting his piſtol into Hammond's hands—" Altho' (ſaid he) I have for " ever diſgraced myſelf, by daring " to attempt the property of another; " that

" that will prove to you, I would " not even put it into the power of " chance to endanger his life—it is " not loaded."

Hammond, finding this to be really the caſe, began to entertain ideas that were far from being unfavourable, and which totally put the intended robbery out of his head: but, hearing the galloping of ſome horſes that were coming towards them, " Feign " not to know any thing of the rob- " bery (ſaid he haſtily): your having " no arms will obviate all ſuſpicion " of your being concern'd—and let " me beg to ſee you at ——— to- " morrow, *as a friend.*"

" You ſhall;" replied the other, after a ſhort heſitation, and juſt as three horſemen came up.

" Have

" Have you taken the highway-
" man, ſir?"

" This gentleman," replied Hammond, " has had a fall from his horſe—
" and my lending him aſſiſtance has
" prevented my purſuing the high-
" wayman any farther—nor would I
" have you, gentlemen," ſeeing them inclined to follow him, " as 'tis im-
" poſſible you ſhould overtake him."

He then thanked them for their intended aſſiſtance—mounted his horſe—and wiſhing them and the highwayman " a good night," rode back to the chaiſe.

He aſk'd the ladies—(after he had received from them a proper lecture for his imprudence) if they knew the gentleman? and on their replying in

the negative, but that, on the poſt-boy's informing them of what had happen'd, they had immediately purſued him, " One of them," ſaid he, " will call on me to-morrow morning."

" What, then, he's an acquaint-" ance of yours?"

" I know ſomething of him—but " we are not on terms of intimacy."

This was a generous piece of caution in Hammond: he conſidered juſtly, that, however ſafely he might entruſt both his wife and ſiſter with his own ſecrets, it would not, in this caſe, be acting liberally to betray thoſe of another.

They arrived at the end of their journey without any other accident.

The

The next morning, a gentleman, of the name of Smith, was announced by the ſervant.

This, as Hammond rightly conjectured, was an aſſumed name—he inſtantly exclaim'd, " I'm very glad he's " come; deſire Mr. Smith to walk in."

Prepared to relieve his embarraſſment, he met him at the door, took him by the hand, and was advancing towards the ladies to introduce him; when the new-comer ſuddenly turn'd pale—his knees began to tremble—" This is too much!" cried he, and ſunk down in a chair that ſtood near him.

" You are not well, Mr. Smith," cried Hammond; " what can we get " for you?"

At the ſame time he look'd good-naturedly ſignificant at the ladies, who, underſtanding the hint, immediately retired.

" Why are you ſo agitated, ſir?—
" You may rely on it, your ſecret is
" ſafe in my breaſt."

" I cannot entertain the ſmalleſt
" doubt of your honour, ſir—but—
" pray, are thoſe the ladies who were
" in the chaiſe?"

" They are."

" Then, ſir, your generoſity will
" avail me nothing!—Miſs Ham-
" mond knows too well my real name
" is not Smith—but M——, and (to
" my ſhame be it ſpoken!) the only ſon
" of Sir William M——. I have had
" the

" the pleaſure of meeting Miſs Ham-
" mond ſeveral times—but little
" thought I ſhould ever appear be-
" fore her in the character of an high-
" wayman."

Here the gentleman—(for as ſuch, notwithſtanding this error, both my maſter and myſelf ſtill conſider'd him) roſe, and walk'd about the room in a diſturbed manner, and, apparently, in an agony of grief—

" Yes, ſir," continued he, " not-
" withſtanding the degrading light
" in which I ſtand before you, my
" family have never until this time
" been ſtigmatized with infamy—
" but the diſgrace is now inde-
" lible."

He then proceeded to inform Hammond of the unaccountable infatuation which had ſeized him, and had induced him to commit an action which, although, as he expreſſed it, it had eſcaped puniſhment, owing to the peculiar generoſity of the perſon on whom the attempt had been made, would, from any other perſon, in all probability, have brought him to an ignominious end.

He had, it ſeems, with that thoughtleſſneſs incidental to youth, loſt a conſiderable ſum the preceding evening (or, rather, *morning*) at a noted gaming-houſe at the Weſt end of the town, and had promiſed to pay it within four and twenty hours.

But

But he had, unfortunately, promiſed more than he had been able to perform.

His friends, on whom he had relied for aſſiſtance, aware of ſome extravagancies that he had lately fallen into, refuſed to advance him any money.

Inflamed by the wine he had drunk (which, as he had not been in bed, he ſtill felt the effects of), irritated at their refuſal, and conceiving that his honour was concerned in the immediate payment of his loſſes (pernicious, but too common a proſtitution of the word!) he had adopted the deſperate reſolution which we have ſeen, but with a full intention of reſtoring to the perſons, at a future time, whatever he might take from them.

To have attempted to point out his error to him would have been abſurd in Hammond, as he already ſaw its enormity in a proper light; he therefore afforded him all the conſolation in his power, bade him recollect that he alone was acquainted with the tranſaction, and again aſſured him that his ſecret was ſafe.

" As this affair *has* turned out," ſaid he, " though it was a million to " one againſt its turning out ſo well, " it may be of real ſervice to you. " The great riſk you have run will, " probably, give you an averſion to " gaming, that will prevent your ever " engaging too deeply in it in future."

" Upon my honour," ſaid Mr. M——, " this adventure ſhall be " a warning

" a warning to me as long as I
" live."

" Then," replied Hammond, " you
" ſhall give it up ſatisfactorily to
" yourſelf. I will, with pleaſure,
" advance you the money you have
" loſt—what is the amount?"

The other named the ſum.

Hammond gave him a draft on his banker in town—" There," ſaid he, " as you are only a few hours beyond " your time, the winners will not " complain: after the payment of " which, if you are not better en- " gaged, and can ſpend two or three " days with us, we ſhall be happy in " your company."

Mr.

Mr. M—— expreſt himſelf in the warmeſt terms of acknowledgement, and ſet off for the metropolis.

Hammond's ſiſter confirmed the truth of his being the ſon of the gentleman whom he had mentioned; but entertained not the leaſt ſuſpicion of the laſt night's adventure.

She expreſſed, however, an intereſt in *the gentleman's* illneſs that ſeemed rather more than common; and, on her brother's preſſing her, owned that Mr. M—— had ſhewn her very particular attention, and that he was *not abſolutely indifferent to her*.

From this her brother very naturally concluded, that ſhe had a great regard for him.

It

It is not my wiſh to dwell long on what the reader has, perhaps, anticipated.

Mr. M—— honeſtly confeſſed the circumſtance to his father, dwelling with peculiar force on the generous conduct of Hammond, and with ſtill greater on the merits of, and his affection for, Hammond's ſiſter; to whom, with his father's entire approbation (previouſly informing her of the above-mentioned buſineſs), he was, in a few weeks, married.

I was in the neighbourhood of their reſidence lately, and heard, with great ſatisfaction, that ſhe has never, hitherto, had the ſmalleſt occaſion to regret the hour in which ſhe ſurrendered to him her hand and heart.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

" The beſt actors in the world, either for tra-
" gedy, comedy, hiſtory, paſtoral, paſtoral-
" comical, hiſtorical-paſtoral, tragical-hiſto-
" rical, tragical-comical, ſcene undividable,
" or poem-unlimited."

SHAKESPEARE's *Hamlet.*

ONE of Hammond's ſervants havng aſked his permiſſion to go over to Windſor to ſee a ſiſter, who was ſettled there; he granted his requeſt, and gave the lad poor me, that he might ſee the play.

I was, accordingly, paid away at the gallery-door of the Windſor playhouſe; and the next morning, which was

Saturday, was given to one of the company, who was, unfortunately, troubled with one of the greateſt evils that a man can labour under—it was, the perpetually carrying about with him,

" A diſcontented and repining ſpirit."

Before I had been in his poſſeſſion a quarter of an hour, he met one of his brethren, who aſked him, in a friendly manner, " if he was to be of their " dinner-party?"

" Hey! dinner party! why, what " are you to have for your dinner?"

" Why I don't exactly know—but " there will be ſome fine roaſt veal, " my boy, and an excellent bowl of " punch after it."

" Piſh!

" Piſh! ſtaggering bob, and ſlow
" poiſon!—no—I ſhall be otherwiſe
" engaged."

He was indeed otherwiſe engaged; for the ſame afternoon he decamped, without beat of drum, leaving the manager to procure another Friar Lawrence for the following Monday, or to change the play—*pro re natâ*.

The fact was, he (like many others of his profeſſion) conceived his abilities to be of a firſt-rate, when they were, in reality, ſcarcely of a ſixth-rate order; and on the manager's refuſing him the part of the gay *Mercutio* (for which his age as well as incapacity rendered him totally unfit), he took this paltry method of revenge.

Juſtice,

Juſtice, however (which, ſooner or later, overtakes petty raſcals as well as villains of note, indeed all thoſe

" That have within them undivulged crimes
" Unwhipp'd—

purſued his ſteps, and overtook him at *Saliſbury*.

In plain Engliſh, the manager of that theatre ſo mortified his vanity by his treatment of him, that he heartily repented his having quitted ſo abruptly the royal brow of Windſor.

On his arrival at that place, ſo celebrated for its penknives and the lofty ſpire of its cathedral, he waited on the governor of the children of Theſpis, ſolicited an engagement (which was granted), and requeſted to make his

firſt

firſt appearance in Othello, Moor of Venice.

The manager conſented. On the night appointed he made an *entrée* in a flaming ſcarlet coat, white flannel waiſtcoat, blue cotton ſtockings, cocked hat, and ramilié—but performed the character ſo little to the ſatisfaction of the audience, that, long before he announced it, they heartily wiſhed "*Othello's occupation gone!*"

The Moor himſelf, however, was well pleaſed. He thought, and with juſtice, that Barry, when living, played it *as well*; but he doubted whether he had ever played it better.

The Manager, it ſhould ſeem, was of a very different opinion; for, the next

next morning, the unfortunate ſtroller ſaw his name attached to the part of the ſecond murderer in Macbeth, in the play-bills for the next repreſentation.

Full of indignation and reſentment, he flew to the apartment of the theatrical monarch, and, without knocking at the door, burſt into the room with the abrupt queſtion,

" What on earth do you mean, ſir, " by the groſs affront you have put " upon me ?"

" What affront, ſir ?"

" Why, ſir, there is my name in " the bills for the ſecond murderer."

" A miſtake of the printer's, ſir—
" entirely a miſtake."

" Oh, ſir," quite ſoftened, " 'tis
" very well, if that's the caſe—then,
" pray, ſir, what character am I to
" perform? for, I am ſure, in ſo full a
" piece you muſt want my aſſiſtance?"

" What character, ſir? why, the
" *firſt* murderer—for I am convinced
" you'll do it more juſtice than any
" man in my company."

It was to no purpoſe that the other remonſtrated, ſtormed, vowed vengeance, with a long train of *et cætera:* the manager was inflexible.

The actor (calling to mind that I and two of my brethren were the only

friends he had left, and not looking upon ſilver with the eyes of *Baſſanio*,

" I'll none of thee, thou pale and common
" drudge
" 'Twixt man and man—")

ſubmitted to the indignity, and retired to his lodgings, planning all the way an hundred different ſchemes of revenge.

When the night came, my owner grumbled out his ſhort part: previous to which I was witneſs to a very curious ſcene, that may, poſſibly, divert the reader as much as it did myſelf.

The Manager performed Macbeth: and in the repreſentation, when the Thane came off the ſtage to perpetrate the ſuppoſed murder of Duncan, his

 property.

property-man (the account of whoſe office is ſo humouroufly treated by Addiſon, in one of the numbers of "The Guardian") had neglected to procure the neceſſary article of blood, for the actor to beſmear his hands with, and juſtify the obſervation of "this is a ſorry ſight!" When Macbeth therefore impatiently, and in a violent hurry, aſked, "Well, ſir, "where's the blood?" The reply was, in a kind of heſitating trepidation, "Sir—I'm very ſorry—but—I've "quite—forgot it."

"You have, ſir—well then, ſtand "ſtill——there——" at that inſtant ſtriking the property-man a ſevere blow on the noſe, whence iſſued a copious ſtream; "there—that will "do—there's enough—" and immediately

diately returned to Lady Macbeth with the very *à-propos* quotation, " I've done the deed—didſt thou " not, &c."

In the intervening time betwixt this and the following play-night my brethren were ſeparated.

My owner then became an exception to the obſervation of *Philips*, in the firſt lines of his excellent poem: he was *not* happy, although he was ſtill in poſſeſſion of *a ſplendid ſhilling*.

In ſome meaſure to excuſe *Philips*, however, it muſt be owned that he was all the time meditating on his revenge; and, whilſt ſuch is the employment of a man's mind, he cannot be ſaid to be happy. At length a

thought occurred, which, diſdaining all fear of conſequences, he determined to put into execution.

The reader will allow I was in high luck, that, during the week in which I might be ſaid to belong to the community, no leſs than three of our *Shakſpeare's* chief productions were the ſelected pieces. To *Othello* and *Macbeth* was added *Hamlet*.

The manager (whoſe peculiar privelege I found it was to make a fool of himſelf whenever he choſe) aſſumed the character of the Prince of Denmark. My owner roſe a ſtep higher in his ſituation than on the preceding night—he enacted the gentle *Guildenſtern*.

All

All had gone on tolerably ſmooth until that part of the third act where *Hamlet* offers the recorders to *Guildenſtern.*

The dialogue commenced in the words of the author.

" Will you play upon this pipe?"

" My lord, I cannot."

" I pray you—"

" Believe me, I cannot."

" I do beſeech you—"

Guildenſtern's ſenſe of politeneſs was then called into action; and, like another *Kemble,* he boldly introduced

a new reading; and, inſtead of the proper reply, "I know no touch of "it," he amended the text with, "Well, ſince your royal highneſs is "ſo preſſing, I don't care if I do *try* "a bit;" and, ſnatching the flute out of his hand, to the unſpeakable aſtoniſhment and horror of *Hamlet*, began playing the Belle-iſle march!

The audience half laughed themſelves into convulſions, and, during the remainder of the play, were utterly unable to pay the leaſt tribute of attention to the ſorrows of the unhappy Prince.

Garrick's "Lethe" concluded the evening; which was ſo indifferently repreſented, that I thought there was a good deal of truth in the anſwer which

which I overheard a teſty old gentleman give to a friend, as they were coming out of the houſe, on the other's aſking him " how he liked the play."

" The play," replied he, " was all " a *farce*—and the farce was no *en-* " *tertainment!*"

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

" A man he was to all the country dear."
GOLDSMITH's *Deſerted Village.*

THE next morning my maſter went to the playhouſe, in full expectation of receiving his diſcharge—but he was agreeably diſappointed: the manager, though he could with pleaſure have knock'd him down at the time that it happen'd, had himſelf laughed at the circumſtance before he ſlept, and accoſted him with——

" Well, ſir, that was a pretty trick
" you play'd me laſt night—but don't
" hazard it again—for I won't be an-
" ſwerable

" ſwerable for breaking the flute about
" your head if you do."

He was aſſured that there would be no repetition of the joke; and there the matter reſted.

After the rehearſal, I was paid away at one of the inns; and, the ſame evening, in change, to a phyſician who had accidentally call'd there.

Amongſt the various occupations which employ mankind, that of a phyſician is conſider'd as a very honourable one: as a liberal ſcience, it is aſſuredly,

" if not firſt, in the very firſt line."

The

The profeſſion itſelf therefore placed this gentleman on an equal footing with the generality of mankind; but his talents and virtues did more: —they removed the equality, and in a ſhort time raiſed him to ſuperior eminence. When his abilities became known, he was looked up to with reſpect and admiration. The *great* ſought his ſociety; for, his manners were engaging, and his converſation inſtructive: the *good* ſought it; for he was their brother; but, to the needy and to the afflicted, he was

"Dear as the vital ſtream that warm'd their hearts."

What was his duty was at the ſame time his pleaſure: the greater part of that time was taken up in viſiting the houſe

houſe of mourning—in alleviating the diſtreſſes of mortality.

An example like this, thought I, is better than a thouſand precepts. It ſhould be held forth to public view: and if, only in the ſmall proportion of one in a thouſand, it ſhould excite the ſpirit of laudable emulation, the end would be effectually anſwered.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

"Bleak are thy hills, O North, and wild thy plains;
"Yet beauteous are thy Nymphs, and brave thy ſwains."

Anonymous.

IN a few days I fell into the hands of a young gentleman nearly related to my laſt poſſeſſor, and who, by his advice, was going to the metropolis of Scotland, to attain a competent knowledge of the medical ſcience.

Ulyſſes-like,

"——qui providus urbes
"Et mores hominum inſpexit——"

I was

I was glad of the opportunity of ſeeing " The Land of Cakes." We viſited in our way—what an orator in the Houſe of Commons emphatically ſtyled " the Toy-ſhop of Europe"—Birmingham: thence (paſſing through the ſhire-town, ſo famous in antient times for its *ale*, and in modern for its *ſtockings)* we got into the great north road at *Newark*.

The young gentleman waited an hour or two for the arrival of the mail-coach; and then, a ſeat being vacant, he with a light heart entered that vehicle, which, from the velocity with which it is driven, deſtroys ſuch numbers of the nobleſt animals of creation.

However

However well calculated the above vehicle may be for the purpoſes of ſpeedy intercourſe in mercantile concerns, and for ſwift conveyance from one end of the kingdom to the other, it certainly affords no opportunity to the traveller of inſpecting "tower'd "cities," or of contemplating ruins, proſpects, and all the wild variety of Nature.

To the mail-coach, indeed, the *paltribility* (if I may be allowed to uſe the expreſſion) of *Tuxford*, the neat regularity of *Doncaſter*, and the majeſty of *Alnwick Caſtle*, are equally indifferent.

Suffice it then to ſay, that my owner and myſelf arrived ſafe in *Edinburgh*.

As

As this antient city has been ſo well deſcribed by many writers, it would be a needleſs taſk for me to attempt to inform the reader of what, in all probability, he is already ſo well appriz'd.

The eyes of Engliſhmen are now opened: they find, by experience, that almoſt all the luxuries of life can be procured there with eaſe, if the grand *deſideratum* be not wanting: they can ſubſcribe to the univerſal opinion of the ſplendour of the *New-Town*—they can admire the *Bridges*—the *Theatre*——the *Regiſter-Office*—amongſt its modern acquiſitions; nor will they, in Great Britain, find its *natural* beauties excelled. Need I mention the *Calton Hill*, *Saliſbury-craig*,

the eminence of the *Caſtle*, and the *Frith* of *Forth*.

My new maſter took up his abode in a houſe near *George's Square*, in which half a dozen more young gentlemen alſo reſided; and theſe formed a moſt agreeable ſociety. It is needleſs to obſerve, that in *Edinburgh* he found men truly eminent in thoſe branches of knowledge which he wiſhed to cultivate. Not being willing, however, to undertake more at firſt than he could with eaſe accompliſh, in this his firſt ſeaſon he only attended the lectures of *Dr. Black* on chemiſtry, and *Dr. Monro* on anatomy, in his *profeſſional* purſuits—but he devoted another hour to the gratifying and inſtructive lectures of *Mr. Stuart* on moral philoſophy.

At

At three he joined his companions at dinner; when the obſervations of the different Prefeſſors, and the curious occurrences of the morning, furniſhed ample materials for a converſation that afforded an happy mixture of wit and judgement.

After dinner he amuſed himſelf with his piano-forte, or a new book from the circulating library, and, occaſionally, wrote a few verſes to read publicly, and paſs the ordeal of criticiſm at the tea-table; whence, as they were diſpoſed, they adjourned, in a party, to the theatre, or retired to ſtudy in their ſeveral apartments.

My maſter's abilities and reſpectability of character gained him admiſ-

ſion as a member in the Royal Medical Society: the *Saturday* evenings therefore were devoted to his attendance there—and the mornings (being free from lectures of every kind) were given to the game of *Golf*, which, though not equal to our manly *Cricket*, poſſeſſes theſe advantages, *viz.* that, to conſtitutions not naturally ſtrong, the exerciſe is more moderate; and that it can be played in every month of the year.

I ſhall conclude my ſhort account of the life of an *Edinburgh* ſtudent with obſerving, that, partial as I am to my own country, I cannot help wiſhing, that it were as much the *faſhion* to ſtudy at the Engliſh as it is in the Scottiſh univerſities.

In

In the former, if a man wiſhes ardently to diſtinguiſh himſelf, and ſtudies accordingly, he is conſidered as a *Quiz:* in the latter, if he devotes too much of his time to indolence and diſſipation, he is looked on with indifference that borders on contempt.

CHAP. IX.

Sæpe caput ſcalpet, vivos et roderet ungues.
HOR.

BY an eaſy tranſition (being paid away at a hit at back-gammon) I next became the property of a young man, of the name of Archibald.

He was of a good family, and had paſſed two or three winters at Edinburgh in the ſtudy of medicine.

In the different ſocieties which are eſtabliſhed there, for the purpoſe of edifying controverſy and rational debate, he was looked up to as a leading

character : and it was related as a curious fact, that the author of a new ſyſtem, which was at that time quite the rage, was indebted to him for ſuch a maſterly defence, and indeed clear illuſtration of it, as he himſelf was unable to give.

In his pecuniary arrangements he was entirely dependent on a relation, who had juſt at this time heard of ſome irregularities which his volatility of ſpirits had led him into, and in conſequence of which he had ſent him a ſevere reprimand.

Strange as it may appear, this unaccountable young man looked on the admonition as an inſufferable indignity. He had written an anſwer, in which he was ſo far from juſtifying his

conduct, that he "owned the extreme "propriety of the rebuke, *had it come* "*from any other perſon*—but that, as "his relation muſt know that he was "dependent on him for his ſupport, "he inſiſted on the harſh contents of "his letter being retracted, otherwiſe "he would never accept another "guinea from him as long as he "lived."

His relation having ſent another letter, totally different from his expectations, Archibald adopted the mad reſolution of quitting his family connexions, relinquiſhing *in toto* his medical purſuits, and viſiting the metropolis of England: where, as his talents were by no means confined to the medical ſcience, his ſanguine ideas aſſured him that a large field might be

be opened for his literary attainments, and that his expectations would be gratified with abundant ſucceſs.

He, accordingly, left Edinburgh, and in three days arrived in town.

His ſtock of money was, during his journey, conſiderably reduced. He therefore provided himſelf with a cheap lodging, and the next morning waited on an eminent bookſeller in the Strand, with ſome credentials that he had brought with him from Scotland.

He was received in a friendly manner, and introduced to the proprietor of a faſhionable newſpaper, under whoſe auſpices he commenced his literary career.

To ſuch an employment the line of Horace, quoted above, is truly applicable. To ſuch an employment I might, poſſibly, in the heat of reſentment, wiſh an enemy condemned; but I truſt I ſhould have ſufficient charity to remit his puniſhment in a ſhort time.

I will not ſay that it is in itſelf diſreputable, any more than that of a lawyer; but I believe the moſt reſpectable lawyer will allow, that thoſe of his brethren, who have an inclination to knavery, have more opportunities for the indulgence of their wiſh in that profeſſion than in almoſt any other. In like manner a writer to a newſpaper may, if he pleaſes, conduct himſelf in a way that is honourable to himſelf, and beneficial to his employer; but it

muſt

muſt be allowed that, in both caſes, we *ſometimes* meet with men who are not of this deſcription.

Putting, however, the reſpectability annexed to the employment out of the queſtion—the ſevere exertion of the mental faculties which it requires is painful in the extreme.

A given quantity of blank paper is to be filled up in a given ſpace of time—no allowance is made for the abſence of ideas or ſtagnation of the powers of intellect—nothing worthy to be recorded has happened during the laſt four and twenty hours—in ſuch a ſtate, how difficult muſt be the execution of the allotted taſk! and how praiſe-worthy the conduct of him who can, in ſuch a ſituation, ſteer clear

clear of falſehood and malignity! When readers diſcover neither of theſe in the different paragraphs, it requires no great exertion of good-nature to compound for a few trifling inaccuracies or unfounded conjectures.

During the time he was engaged in this employment he undertook to tranſlate the celebrated "*Muſcipula*," but could not find ſufficient leiſure-time to finiſh it. After he was reconciled to his relation, and had returned to Scotland, the following fragment was found, with other looſe papers, in one of his drawers.

MUSCI-

MUSCIPULA;

OR,

THE MOUSE-TRAP.

SING, Muſe, the Briton, who, with cunning
fraught,
Firſt upon mice a dire deſtruction wrought;
Who, with ingenious art, and judgement rare,
Contriv'd a trap—inextricable ſnare!

And thou, O potent Phœbus, aid my verſe,
Whilſt I, in ſportive mood, my tale rehearſe!
Or, ſhould the name of *Smyntheus* more delight,
(A name which ever will poor mice affright),
Oh,

Oh, leave thy much-lov'd Pindus! Wales, well-ſtor'd
With hills and mountains, ſure, can one afford:
Swift, then, as air, on ſome Welſh hill deſcend,
And in his humble taſk your votary befriend!

A mouſe (an animal whoſe thieviſh plan
'S to plunder, filch, and ſteal whate'er he can)
Had long, accuſtom'd to the well-known trade,
Been wont each tart and cheeſe-cake to invade;
Rang'd, with impunity, the cupboard o'er,
And gnaw'd himſelf his paſſage through the door;
Here, there, and every-where, his fancy roves—
He taſtes thoſe diſhes which he moſt approves;
With tooth malign corrodes each well-built puff,
Nor till he's gorg'd his fill cries, "*Hold, enough!*"
But whilſt through all the world this vermin crept,
Wales chiefly, unreveng'd, her ſorrows wept:
Oh, think what grief each Welſhman's breaſt muſt ſeize,
To view each morn the havoc 'mongſt his cheeſe!

For

For other things he ſlights—this keen-tooth'd
mouſe
Gnaws it quite through—and forms himſelf a
houſe.

Incens'd at this, the nation glows with rage;
Anger and Grief alone their minds engage:
They know not where to go, nor where remain,
Nor reſt nor wandering relieves their pain:
With paſſion Welſhmen's breaſts are ſo un-
hing'd,
You'd think with ſulphur ev'ry heart was ting'd.

Now to the dictates of their rage they yield,
Againſt this ſcoundrel mouſe to take the field:
T' avenge their injur'd country all agreed—
But who muſt undertake the arduous deed?
How can this wary animal be taken,
When e'en *Grimalkin's* ſelf *can't ſave their bacon?*
For ſhe in vain her eager hopes had fed,
In vain, alas! her wily ſnares had ſpread;
In vain againſt the door her watch had kept—
The foe had always *look'd before he leap'd:*
Th' advantage too was his; for, looking round,
Whene'er his enemy on watch he found,

Back

Back he retreated to another room
Through holes and chinks where cats could never come;
Nor would he e'er again the place re-enter,
Till *Puſs* had firſt withdrawn, and he could ſafely venture.

Thus in old times (if it may be allow'd
To liken vermin to a race ſo proud)
Cæſar to ſov'reign empire pav'd the way,
And all the world, ſave *Wales*, confeſs'd his ſway:
But *Cambria*, by her hills encircled round,
From *Cæſar's* conq'ring arms her ſafety found;
Secure, in dens and caves they lay conceal'd;
So, though they did not fight, they could not yield:
Yet hence of their great anceſtors they boaſt,
Their old Welſh language, and unconquer'd coaſt!

Since then *Grimalkin's* arts no more prevail'd,
And her and *Taffy's* joint alliance fail'd,
A council's call'd, where now *St. David's* fame
Is dwindled down to nothing but a name—

There

There nobles, ſenators, and people, run;
Something of conſequence muſt now be done!

A ſage (who'ſe beard whene'er a goat had ſeen,
It fill'd him ſtraight with envy and the ſpleen),
Worn out with age, reclining 'gainſt a poſt,
Stood forth conſpicuous, and addreſs'd the hoſt:
" 'Tis not," he cry'd, " my friends, an open foe
" That thus afflicts and fills our breaſts with woe;
" 'Tis not a foreign enemy we fear—
" Ah! no—he dwells, alas! an *inmate* here!
" What! ſhall this tyrant mouſe for ever reign?
" Still farther ſhall he ſtretch his wide domain?
" Oh, rev'rend fathers, let a pious zeal
" Inſpire your councils for your country's weal!
" Diſpel her griefs—ſo ſhall the pen of Fame
" Next great *Cadwallader's* enrol your name!"
He ſpoke—and lo! produc'd before their eyes
The mouldy fragments of the tarts and pies:
Theſe ſhameful monuments of ſtealth and art
Kindled a flame in every Welſhman's heart.

Now, with the ardent thirſt for praiſe poſſeſt,
Revenge and Malice glow in every breaſt:
Each *Cambrian* meditates the Mouſe's fall,
And the dire trap engag'd the thoughts of all.
But one above the reſt, of higher fame—
The ſame a ſenator, a ſmith the ſame—
Whether for forging ſhoes, or framing law,
Cambria great *Taffy*'s equal never ſaw.
Taffy began—" If thus our nation's boaſt,
" If thus our darling pride, our cheeſe, be loſt,
" Not e'en the *rich* can have *a ſecond courſe*,
" And the poor *huſbandman* muſt ſuffer worſe;
" With his dear cheeſe no more muſt he be
" fed,
" But, with ſad heart, go ſupperleſs to bed.
" Since, then, nor cats nor valour aid impart,
" This, this right-hand ſhall try the black-
" ſmith's art:
" With engines we'll attempt the daring deed:
" In war who cares if ſtrength or art ſuc-
" ceed?"

Whilſt thus he proudly vaunts, the liſt'ning
croud,
Who all ſurround him, buz their joy aloud;

On

On him they gaze, on him they fix their eyes;
Their minds entranc'd with pleaſure and ſur-
prize,
All eager aſk, " What ſcheme is in the wind?
" And *whence* can they their future ſafety find?"

Then Taffy ſcratch'd his head ('twas full of
guile),
And, " *grinning horribly a ghaſtly ſmile*,"
Spoke, " When, laſt night, my weary limbs
" were eas'd,
" And a deep ſleep my heavy eye-lids ſeiz'd,
" That daring mouſe, allur'd, as I ſuppoſe,
" By ſmell of cheeſe which from my ſtomach
" roſe,
" Which *on* my ſtomach undigeſted lay,
" And from an open mouth ſeem'd eaſy prey;
" That daring mouſe—my jaws extended
" wide—
" Down to my very entrails 'gan to glide,
" And ev'n from out my throat prepar'd to
" ſeize
" My laſt night's ſupper—my unguarded
" cheeſe.

" Rous'd from my ſlumbers thus, the thief I
" caught,
" Who to return and quit his priſon ſought—
" But all in vain!—within my teeth I kept
" The rebel, who, too late, his raſhneſs wept.

" Inſtructed thus the caitiff to enſnare,
" To form the priſon-houſe was next my care,
" The which my fertile brain had quickly
" wrought,
" Indebted to my captive for the thought."

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

I have a daughter: look you, here ſhe ſtands,
Right fair and virtuous.——

COLMAN's *Surrender of Calais.*

FROM the hands of Archibald I paſſed into thoſe of the perſon who receives advertiſements at the office; and the ſame day was paid, in change, to a young man whoſe dreſs gave him the appearance of (what I afterwards found he really was) a gentleman-farmer.

He had come to town upon ſome particular buſineſs, which having tranſacted to his ſatisfaction, he took

me with him, on his return, into Leiceſterſhire.

He was the youngeſt ſon of a baronet, who poſſeſſed an eſtate of two thouſand a year; and had received an excellent education.

At the age of twenty his good ſenſe pointed out to him, that, as his father was encumbered with a family of ſix ſons and two daughters, it was highly neceſſary that he ſhould fix himſelf in ſome ſituation, where his active diſpoſition might, by ſufficiently and handſomely providing for himſelf, render him independent of his father's kindneſs.

This was not, however, intended to be the independence of a proud

proud ſpirit, but that of filial affection.

He knew that, having ſo many children, his father, with all his prudent care, could lay by annually but a ſmall part of his income.

He was aware, that at his death he could, in reaſon, expect but little—not enough, at all events, to maintain him as the ſon of a baronet.

He was at this time on a viſit at his godfather's; a gentleman of the name of *Aylesford*, whoſe family conſiſted of an only daughter, and who, from the amiable diſpoſition of his godſon Henry (for ſo he was called), was particularly attached to him.—The old gentleman had fancied that

he had perceived in him a partiality for his daughter; but Henry had never *declared* it—and his own delicacy was too great, to make an offer that might poſſibly be rejected; or, if accepted, might be accepted through gratitude, and the fear of rendering his friend unhappy.

Matters were thus circumſtanced when the young gentleman was, one morning, looking over the newſpaper, and accidentally read the account of the ſudden death of a perſon who reſided in the ſame county, and who, like his father, had a numerous family. He immediately exclaimed, " Now, " what will become of the younger " children?—for I am certain Mr. " —— has lived to the full extent of " his income, if not beyond it."

There

There was ſomething in his manner, and in the earneſtneſs with which he uttered this, that ſhewed how much he was affected by it; and, what Mr. *Aylesford's delicacy* had ſo long prevented him from declaring, his *friendly warmth* in a moment effected.

" My dear Harry," ſaid he, " I " can read your thoughts—and am " equally concerned with yourſelf in " this affair."

" What affair, Sir?"

" Nay, I have now gone too far to " retreat—nor do I know indeed whe- " ther I ought to wiſh it—You were " thinking, my dear boy, what might " be your own ſituation in life, were " the baronet to die?"

Henry

Henry bowed aſſent.

" Will you permit me to put a
" plain queſtion to you?—and will
" you, on your honour, give a direct
" and candid anſwer to it, when I
" inform you, that the leaſt attempt
" to deceive me in it—however kind
" your motive may be—might occa-
" ſion me much future miſery? "

His godſon, with a look that evinced how much aſtoniſhed he was by this diſcourſe, after heſitating a few ſeconds, again bowed aſſent.

" Why, then, have you, or have
" you not, a partiality for my daugh-
" ter Louiſa?—By partiality I do not
" mean that common liking or regard
" which mere acquaintance might
give:

" give: but is ſhe a woman whom,
" provided you had gained her affec-
" tions, you could be happy to make
" your wife?—Now obſerve, any
" *evaſion* would in this caſe be cruel-
" ty—and remember, that 'tis one
" thing to have a regard for a girl,
" and another to ſpend your days with
" her as a huſband."

In the anſwer there was no heſita-tion—

It was, " Sir, your daughter is the
" woman with whom I could be hap-
" py to ſpend my days—and, had my
" fortune and ſituation been ſuch as
" I could have offered as worthy of
" her, you would not ſo long have
" been ignorant of it."

" Then,"

" Then," ſaid the old gentleman, " two perſons out of four are ſatis- " fied. There remains only to gain " my girl's conſent, which," added he ſmiling, " I do not think will " prove an Herculean labour; and the " approbation of my friend, your " father, who has been a kind father " to you, and *without* whoſe appro- " tion we will not proceed a ſtep.— " When theſe are obtained, we will " plan ſome ſcheme of life wherein " a few thouſands may be of uſe to " you; for I do not think that an " idle life would, and I am certain that " a *diſſipated* one would not, be what " you would chuſe. An idle life poſ- " ſeſſes the negative quality of inſig- " nificance—but a diſſipated one adds " to inſignificance folly and worth- " leſſneſs.

" leſſneſs. Proportionate regret is " indeed the certain end of *both*."

The ſame day Henry rode over to the baronet, who received the propoſal with the utmoſt pleaſure.

He treated his ſon in the manner that every deſerving ſon ought to be treated—that is, with *confidence* as well as *affection*.

He explained to him the exact ſituation of his affairs, and concluded with telling him, " that the ſetting " forth his other ſons in life had in- " deed left him rather ſhort of caſh " at preſent; but that, as he had an " equal claim on him with any of his " brothers, the eldeſt excepted, he " would take care that his portion

" ſhould

" ſhould not be inferior to the reſt: " and he felt himſelf truly happy in " being able to add, that his conduct " and filial duty *merited* this at his " hands. My friend's predilection " in your favour," concluded the ſenior, " is not, I truſt, ill-founded; " for 'tis very rarely ſeen, that a good " ſon makes a bad huſband."

The reader will naturally conclude, that ſuch a panegyric from a father muſt have been moſt grateful to the feelings of an affectionate ſon: Henry made thoſe acknowledgments to the baronet which his heart dictated.

The next day he returned to the houſe of Mr. Aylesford.

Thus

Thus warranted by the approbation of both parents, he eagerly ſeized the firſt opportunity of declaring his paſſion to the young lady. He honeſtly avowed, "that, circumſtanced as he "was, he ſhould have thought it diſ-"honourable to have made ſuch a "declaration without the ſanction of "Mr. Aylesford—but that he ſhould "think himſelf very undeſerving of "her, if he did not feel, that *her* "approbation (though, from theſe "circumſtances, it had been *ſeconda-"rily* conſulted) was the *firſt* in his "wiſhes."

His declaration was received in ſuch a manner as to convince him, that her father's ſanction of his addreſſes was by no means a circumſtance of regret to her.

The real truth was, Louiſa was a girl of ſenſe and diſcernment, and could not but have obſerved, without any unpleaſing emotions, thoſe amiable qualities in him which, joined to the agreeable and unvaried politeneſs he had ſhewn her, had made an impreſſion on her heart.

In a ſhort time they were united in the holy bands of wedlock, and, for the preſent, reſided under the hoſpitable roof of the young lady's father.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

O fortunatos nimium, ſua ſi bona nôrint,
Agricolas!

VIRGIL.

AS the two gentlemen were riding out one morning, Mr. Aylesford jocoſely aſk'd his ſon-in-law, "how he "ſhould like farming?"

"Very much," was the anſwer.— "Why then," rejoined the other, "ſuppoſe we make a farmer of you? "Joking apart, this eſtate which we "are now riding over is advertiſed "to be ſold. The land is rented at "£. 400 *per annum*. There is, you

" ſee, a good houſe upon it; and
" which, by expending a little mo-
" ney in repairs, and building ſome
" additional apartments, may be made
" an excellent one. I'll undertake
" that buſineſs for you, on condition
" that two rooms ſhall be entirely
" appropriated to myſelf: for, at my
" time of life, I ſhould not chuſe to
" live at a diſtance from you and
" my girl; at the ſame time, I
" ſhould not like to be an encum-
" brance to you, ſo I ſhall ſtill keep
" my own houſe (which is not quite
" three miles off), and have theſe
" rooms for my own uſe when I'm
" with you, which will, on the ave-
" rage, be perhaps eight months out
" of the twelve.—Well, Harry, what
" ſay you to my propoſal?"

Recollecting himſelf, he haſtily added—

" I only wiſh to know, if the over-
" looking your own farm would be a
" life that would pleaſe you?"

" It would, ſir."

" Then, Harry, you'll oblige me
" if you will take your ſervant with
" you to L—, to bring the horſes
" back, and ſeat yourſelf in the mail-
" coach this very evening —I'll give
" you a line to my broker, to ſell out
" of the funds; and you may ſettle
" the whole buſineſs in three days:
" only take care to have the eſtate
" made over to *yourſelf*; otherwiſe
" you'll be obliged to take another

" trip to town, to have the writings
" altered."

Henry attempted to expreſs his acknowledgment of this generous conduct; but Mr. Aylesford interrupted him with—

" My dear lad, I could never en-
" dure a ſtate of dependence—and I
" do not think half ſo ill of you as
" to ſuppoſe that *you* could.—But
" come, let us turn our horſes' heads,
" and haſten dinner half an hour, or
" elſe you'll be hard puſhed for time."

The above circumſtances I heard Henry relate to a friend, who accompanied him on his return into Leiceſſhire.

The

The welcome which he and his companion (whom he introduced to his wife and Mr. Aylesford as a *particular* friend) received, and the pleaſure which ſo viſibly appeared in the faces of all, gave me a favourable opinion of my new reſidence.

I was not miſtaken. Henry had certainly come nearer to the diſcovery of that moſt invaluable of all ſecrets, viz. *of being happy*, than any man I had hitherto met with.

Half his ſenſe would have been ſufficient to convince him that, in this ſtate of probation, *perfect* happineſs is not to be obtained: but, being aware how much depended on himſelf, he applied to the ſtudy of attaining it accordingly.

He had totally conquered one great ſource of diſquiet, viz. the contemplating with envy the *fancied* happineſs of thoſe placed in higher ſituations in life.

He well knew that, in nineteen out of twenty, the happineſs was merely *fancied*: that, although a tranquil ſerenity, or rather an inſipid indifference, appeared in the faces of the great, a real peace of mind was, in general, a ſtranger to them: that they were diſcompoſed by the verieſt trifles in nature: that the being left out in a circular card of invitation was often the ſevereſt and moſt mortifying ſtab to their pride; and a mutilated bow or curtſey the ſubject of anxious conjecture for half a day!

This

This knowledge, together with the reflection "how many of his fellow-"creatures, much more worthy than "himself, were placed in situations of "life very inferior to his own," made him, instead of repining, thankful for, and happy in, his lot.

A grateful heart—a proper sense of those numberless benefits which we receive from an all-merciful Father—is so essential a requisite in the forming an *happy* as well as a *good* man, that I never knew any one who could be deemed, strictly speaking, either one or the other without it.

Having the source of content in his own breast, and being, by the generosity of Mr. Aylesford, now blest with independence, his activity of dis-

poſition made him almoſt conſtantly the poſſeſſor of the *firſt* alſo of the three acquiſitions which conſtitute, as *Pope* affirms, an happy man:

————all the joys of ſenſe
Dwell in three words—*health*, *peace*, and *competence*.

The ſuperintending the buſineſs of his farm not only rendered him healthy, but afforded him the higheſt gratification. It employed five or ſix of his morning hours, and ſent him home to his dinner with a keen appetite, a ruddy complexion, and a light heart.

Not but that it muſt be naturally ſuppoſed he, like all the reſt of mankind, met occaſionally with diſappointments

pointments and vexations. But his good ſenſe taught him, that, if a miſchief was to be repaired, it was only a little additional trouble, which would neither hurt his body or mind—if it was irreparable, that it was fruitleſs to give himſelf any concern about it: and though he was not maſter of his thoughts, ſo as to be able entirely to expel it from his mind, yet, on looking round, he could generally find ſome preſent immediate good to counterbalance it: experience too had proved to him, that *his* conſtant renovation of hope *was not attended* with a perpetual ſucceſſion of diſappointment.

Under his own roof he met a wife with a ſmiling countenance, who, as well as her father, was intereſted in his

his little anecdotes of the employment or the adventures of the morning.

To the dinner ſucceeded a temperate, chearful glaſs: the tea-equipage generally brought with it a newſpaper, which, read aloud, afforded room for obſervations humourous and ſerious: books, with a few tunes on the harpſichord, filled up the intervening ſpace betwixt tea and ſupper; or, if a friendly neighbour dropped in, an occaſional rubber at whiſt.

Before I quitted his ſervice, I had formed a decided opinion of the happineſs that is to be found in the way of life which he had choſen. Happineſs, I allow at the ſame time, depends ſo entirely on the diſpoſition of every perſon, that it may, in ſome meaſure,

measure, be obtained in any and every situation of life—

Est hic
Est ulubris, *animus* si te non defuit *æquus*.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Ut jugulent homines, ſurgunt de nocte latrones.
HORACE.

IN payment for the loſs of a game at piquet, I fell into the hands of his friend, who had accompanied him from London; and, in a few days, ſet off with him towards the oppoſite ſide of the county.

He was, together with his ſervant, trotting briſkly along, and would certainly have reached the village towards which he was bending his courſe with eaſe before ſunſet, had not his attention been arreſted, on a ſudden,

ſudden, by a pack of fox-hounds belonging to Mr. ——, that made their appearance within two hundred yards of him.

Being a keen ſportſman, he heſitated not a moment, but immediately joined the deſcendants of Nimrod: neither his ſervant nor his horſes were backward on the occaſion; and, as they were quite freſh, both maſter and man were in at the death, together with another gentleman, and the huntſman, the two latter being the only perſons who enjoyed that happineſs out of near an hundred who had ſtarted fairly with them when Reynard broke cover.

My owner now found himſelf farther diſtant from the place of his deſtination,

tination, by eleven or twelve miles, than he had been two hours before; nor were his horſes quite ſo well diſpoſed to proceed on their journey—however, after procuring, with difficulty, ſome corn for them, and ſome eggs and bacon for himſelf and his ſervant, at a village that was hard-by, he remounted.

By this time night was drawing on apace; and, as the Leiceſterſhire roads are, in general, bad almoſt to a proverb, he was not able to make any great progreſs; and, to confeſs the truth, heartily regretted that the hounds, all-excellent as they were,

" That day had croſs'd him, like his evil ge-
" nius."

In

In another hour it became dark; and, to complete his diſtreſs, he came to a place where three roads met.—He had indeed the ſatisfaction of perceiving that there was a guide-poſt: but that ſatisfaction immediately vaniſhed, on his recollecting, that it was utterly impoſſible to diſtinguiſh the letters inſcribed on it.

In this ſituation he gave up all thoughts of arriving at the end of his journey that night, and only hoped to procure ſtable room and clean ſtraw, at ſome ale-houſe, for his horſes, and a pair of clean ſheets for himſelf.

Another tedious mile brought him within hearing of the barking of a dog; and, ſhortly after, he perceived a light that ſeemed to be at no great

diſtance, towards which he immediately bent his courſe.

On his ſervant alighting and knocking at the door, a female appeared at a window, with the uſual queſtion, "Who's there?"

The reply was, "A ſtranger, who, "together with his ſervant, is be-"nighted, and who would be glad to "be informed how far diſtant he is "from M—?"

"Six miles, ſir, at leaſt."

"And how far from ſome public-"houſe?"

"Nearly three, ſir."

Two other females now advanced towards the window; and, after ſome whiſpering amongſt themſelves, another voice aſked him to alight, adding, " but we are ſorry, ſir, that we " have none of our men at home, to " take care of your horſes."

My owner politely " thank'd her " for her kindneſs, which, he ſaid, " he ſhould be happy to accept; and " that his own ſervant could lead the " horſes to the ſtable."

He accordingly diſmounted, and entered the houſe; a lantern was given to his man, and the ſtable pointed out to him.

As the gentleman was maſter of an inſinuating addreſs, and totally free

from that *mauvaiſe honte* which is, eſpecially on a firſt introduction, the bane of all agreeable converſation, he, in the courſe of half an hour, felt himſelf entirely diveſted of all reſtraint, and, by an happy art, had produced the ſame effect in the ladies who were his companions: the two youngeſt, he diſcovered, were the daughters of the lady who had given him ſo hoſpitable, and, at the ſame time, ſo ſeaſonable, an invitation.

He related his adventure with the fox hounds, converſed on the faſhionable topics of the day, and informed them of ſome new arrangements in the higher circles.

He was agreeably ſurprized to find that his new acquaintance entered with

eaſe into the latter ſubjects, and ſeemed perfectly familiar with them; whence he entertained an opinion, and juſtly, that they were perſons of no very inferior rank in life.

On the appearance of ſupper, the elderly lady again apologized for the non-attendance of her ſervants; one of whom, he learned, was gone to ſee a relation; and the others, one female excepted, had obtained permiſſion to go to a dance, that was given to his ſervants by a gentleman at a neighbouring village, and their leave of abſence was extended to the next morning.

They ſat down—ſupped—chatted an hour afterwards—and the gentleman was then ſhewn to his bed-chamber.

" Now o'er one half the globe
" Nature ſeem'd dead, and wicked dreams abus'd
" The curtain'd ſleep.——"

In plain terms, about midnight the young ladies were alarmed by a noiſe which ſeemed as though ſome perſons were breaking into the houſe—and this, after liſtening a little time, they diſcovered was really the caſe.

They awakened their mother, who ſlept in an adjoining room, and almoſt immediately all three heard the door of the room open where their gueſt had ſlept, and a man's ſteps moving ſoftly down the ſtairs: they then conjectured that the two ſtrangers, whom they had ſo hoſpitably entertained, were confederates in the villany.

Full

Full of indignation, the eldeſt daughter, who poſſeſſed great ſpirit, ſlipped on a wrapping-gown, and, notwithſtanding the earneſt remonſtrances of the other two, took up a candle that was burning, and, on opening the door, met my owner on the ſtair-caſe, half-dreſſed, and with a brace of piſtols in his hand: but not in the leaſt intimidated,

"Is this, ſir," ſaid ſhe, "your "return for our hoſpitality? A poor "return indeed!—But, to complete "the buſineſs, you have only to mur- "der your hoſteſs and the family, "and you may then plunder the "houſe at your leiſure.—Fire your "piſtol, if you pleaſe; but I will ſay, "you have acted baſely."

Aſtoniſhment had at firſt prevented the gentleman's undeceiving her, which he ſeized this opportunity of doing.

" Be aſſured, madam," cried he, " that I am not in the number of " your enemies. I heard the noiſe, " which, I ſee, has alarmed you alſo, " and have been down to diſcover the " cauſe. There are villains breaking " into the houſe; and though my " own piſtols *might* effect your ſafety, " yet, to reduce it as near as poſſible " to a *certainty*, I wiſh to add thoſe " of my ſervant."

This was no time for explanatory apology; ſo, pointing to his ſervant's room, the lady retreated to her mother and ſiſter.

The

The report of a piſtol was ſoon heard——and, immediately after, of another.

In leſs than ten minutes there was a knock at their door—" Your fear, " ladies, may now ceaſe: your knight " has, I believe, driven away your " enemies."

The ladies being now dreſſed (though ſomewhat *en deſhabille*) came out of their room, to thank their deliverer; the eldeſt daughter begged his pardon for her ill-grounded ſuſpicion; but he good-naturedly aſſured her, " it was " totally unneceſſary, as it was im- " poſſible he could be offended at a " miſtake which, all circumſtances " conſidered, it was ſo natural for her " to fall into."

The maid-ſervant, ere this, had made her appearance, trembling like an aſpen leaf, and was ordered to light the fire again in the room in which they had ſupped, as two of the ladies were too much alarmed to return to bed again; on which the gentleman politely offered to ſit up with them—the offer was gladly accepted.

When the dawn began to break-in upon them, my owner and his ſervant went out to try if they could not trace one of the robbers, whom they had heard exclaim "he was a dead man!" after the ſecond piſtol had been fired.

Within a few yards of the kitchen window they perceived ſome blood, the track of which led them to the ſtable; and, on entering it, they found a man

a man wounded, and lying on ſome ſtraw. A piece of black crape hung out of the pocket of an old ſhabby great-coat which he had on, but under which the gentleman caught the glance of a livery.

It immediately occurred to him, that this man was probably one of the ſervants belonging to the houſe—which was really the caſe.

The coachman, tempted by the circumſtance of the other ſervants being abſent all night, concerted a ſcheme with another villain, who, juſt as he was going to ſet out with them, rode up to the houſe in great haſte, and informed him that a near relation, who was dying, wiſhed earneſtly to ſee him. He was permitted to go, and left the

houſe at the ſame time with the reſt, but took an oppoſite direction.

The maid who ſtaid at home was, fortunately, of a timid diſpoſition, and, on being left alone, bolted all the doors; ſo that his original ſcheme, to get back ſecretly into the houſe, was, owing to this unforeſeen circumſtance, fruſtrated. He therefore went to his confederate, and they agreed to wait until the family were gone to bed.

They were, of courſe, ignorant of the arrival of the ſtrangers, and of the hoſpitable reception they had met with from the ladies; which was thus repaid to them, by the protection they received from the perſons to whom thay had afforded it.

The

The villain's comrade was purſued and taken the following day; and, both being tried at the next county aſſizes, were convicted, and baniſhed for ever from their native country.

I have only to add, that the ſervant thought himſelf amply recompenſed by the pecuniary reward which was beſtowed on him: as did his maſter, ſome time after, in that which he alſo receiv'd, viz. the hand of his fair upbraider—with whom he lives very happily, and of whom he has more than once been heard to affirm, " that he believed her talents for " ſcolding had been nearly exhauſted " on the ſtair-caſe; for, that he had " never received half ſo ſevere a " lecture from the *wife*, for having " acted

" acted wrong, as he did from the
" *daughter*—when he was acting
" right."

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Periculoſæ plenum opus aleæ
Tractas.

HORACE.

MY next poſſeſſor was one of that moſt unhappy claſs of beings called Gamblers; perſons who depend on the precarious chance of the day for ſubſiſtence, and who would ſtake their all on the turn-up of a card, or the caſt of a pair of dice.

The name of Gambler is given to thoſe who act fairly under the above circumſtances; but my new proprie-

tor

tor did not adhere ſtrictly to the rigid rules of honeſty, and was, conſequently, ranked amongſt thoſe who have the additional appellation of *Blacklegs* allotted them.

At the age of three-and-twenty a diſtant relation had left him fourteen thouſand pounds, which, by the bad uſe that was made of the money, ſo far from adding to his happineſs, totally deſtroyed it.

He was at that time in a proſperous way of buſineſs as a mercer in the city, and was what is uſually denominated a thriving man; but this unexpected acquiſition induced him to give up trade altogether, and to commence fine gentleman.

In

In travelling through Suffolk, he unfortunately turned aſide (at firſt out of mere curioſity) to ſee the races at Newmarket.

Wiſhing to appear as a man of conſequence, he betted his money freely: it will without any difficulty be believed—that he loſt.

At the concluſion of the October meeting, his pocket-book was deprived of eleven bank-notes, nine of which were the value of one hundred pounds each, and the other two of thirty.

Happy had it been for him had this been all; but what he *gained*, in lieu of his money, was his deſtruction, *viz.*

viz. an immoderate fondneſs of betting and gaming.

In the courſe of two years and an half he had attained ſome ſkill in horſe-fleſh, and was become an adept in the games of piquet, back-gammon, and billiards: 'tis true, he had purchaſed his knowledge rather dearly, as at the end of that time his fortune was reduced to ſomething leſs than five hundred pounds.

Thus diſtreſſed in his circumſtances, he was obliged to make thoſe games, which might have been to him a ſource of innocent amuſement, a kind of precarious fund, to ſupply him with the neceſſaries of life.

The

The quondam *pigeon* was now become a *rook*; watching carefully for the unguarded moments of others, whom he made his prey, and taking every advantage of their intemperance and folly.

Bath was generally his place of abode during the ſeaſon: there, with *apparent* gaiety and careleſſneſs, he concealed the inward pangs of ſorrow and repentance. Every day preſented ſomething to his mind that called forth the bitterneſs of vain regret, and excited the reflection of the gameſter—"What had I to do with play?"—The compariſon too betwixt his former and his preſent ſtate eaſily ſupplied the other part of the ſentence—"Oh! bitter thought! that leads "from what I *was* to what I *am*!"

I will venture to affirm, that the condition of the meaneſt day-labourer, who works at hedging and ditching, eating his coarſe victuals with chearfulneſs and an hearty appetite, and receiving, when his work is finiſhed, the fruits of his honeſt induſtry—with a face that was "born for all weathers," and a body ſufficiently firm at any time

"to 'bide the pelting of the pitileſs ſtorm—"

the ſituation of ſuch a man is a thouſand degrees preferable to that of my owners.

His mind was continually agitated by the idea, not only that his loſs during the day might occaſion a temporary inconvenience, but that a few repe-

repetitions of that loſs might reduce him to actual want.

This fretfulneſs of temper, not being properly ſupported by an adequate ſhare of ſpirit and manhood, was at laſt the cauſe of his being obliged to quit Bath precipitately, and in utter diſgrace.

A gentleman was playing at billiards at the Lower Rooms, one evening, with whom having ſome difference, he inadvertently uttered the word "ſcoun-" drel," and loud enough to be heard by all preſent.

To the aſtoniſhment of the whole room, the gentleman took no notice of it, but continued his play with great coolneſs, and won the party.—

He then deſired the marker to ſtand at the door, that no perſon might go out, and, advancing very gravely to my owner, " As many gentlemen " preſent," ſaid he, " had betted " conſiderable ſums on my ſkill in " the game, I conceived I had no " right, on *their* account, to ſuffer " my temper to be ruffled, and my " judgement diſordered, by an alter- " cation with a contemptible reptile, " until I had finiſhed my match."

" I think," continued he, " every " perſon preſent (for I have taken " particular care to obſerve that no " one has left the room ſince it hap- " pened) heard the word *Scoundrel* " uttered; which, of courſe, muſt " have been addreſſed, though per- " haps indirectly, to me. It is an

" expreſ-

" expreſſion my ſtomach cannot di-
" geſt; and I muſt therefore trouble
" you to *unſay* it, in the ſame public
" manner, and in the preſence of the
" ſame company before whom you
" thought proper to ſay it."

Bitter as the pill was, the other, afraid of proceeding to extremities with a man of known courage, meanly ſwallowed it.

He quitted the billiard-room the moment he had made his recantation, and the city of Bath the enſuing morning.

CHAP. XIV.

"Boaſtful and rough, your firſt ſon is a 'ſquire."
POPE.

ADDISON has, in his account of Epitaphs, made honourable mention of

"Daniel Saul,
"Spitalfields weaver;—and that's all."

Prior has recorded the negative virtues of

"Sauntering Jack and idle Joan:"

and a ſtone, in a church-yard in Leiceſterſhire, modeſtly commemorates a perſon thus:

"Here

" Here lies the body of Simon Stokes,
" Who liv'd and died—like other folks."

The perſon into whoſe hands I next fell, from the frivolity and uſeleſſneſs of his purſuits, in a great meaſure reſembled the above-mentioned worthy perſonages. He might with great juſtice have been enrolled in the liſt of thoſe whom Horace notices as merely

" fruges conſumere nati——"

perſons who cannot properly be ſaid *to live*, but who only ſpin out exiſtence.

Being an only child, and the darling of a fond fooliſh mother, his education had been entirely neglected, he himſelf having an inſuperable averſion to letters.

He ſtaid away from the village-ſchool at leaſt four days out of the ſix; and, even when there, the maſter had a particular charge, " not to fatigue " the poor child with too much in- " ſtruction at a time." The natural conſequence was, that, at the age of ſixteen, he was capable of reading one of Æſop's Fables, by boldly hazarding at ſight the pronunciation of words of one or two ſyllables, and ſpelling thoſe of three.

When he came of age, his father being dead, he found himſelf in poſſeſſion of a good eſtate, and formed the reſolution of indulging freely his paſſion for horſes, dogs, and game-cocks; the ſtable, the dog-kennel, and a cock-pit, being, in his opinion, infinitely preferable to a drawing-

ing-room, a card-party, or an aſſembly.

By too eager a purſuit, however, of his favourite amuſements, his eſtate became ſomewhat involved. His prudent mother pointed out a lady to his notice, who was a widow, poſſeſſed of conſiderable property, and who had obſerved to the former, "What "a pity it was Mr. Thomas did not "think of marrying!" adding, "that, "ſhe dared to ſay, he would make a "good ſort of an huſband."

Mr. Thomas, after weighing the matter a full quarter of an hour, thought his mother's advice was good, and

"on this hint he ſpake."

During his courtſhip he was very near receiving a peremptory negative to his ſuit, owing to a ſpeech that he made, which certainly ſavoured more of honeſty and plain-dealing than of politeneſs and gallantry. "Madam," ſaid he, "I'll come and ſee you every "day, with all my heart, whilſt this "froſt laſts—but, when a thaw comes, "confound me! if I give up my hunt-"ing for any woman in Chriſten-"dom!"

The widow, however, was induced to forgive him, and in due time they were married.

Report ſpoke favourably of him in his character of huſband; though, from a ſpeech which I once heard him make, I muſt confeſs, I entertained no great

great opinion of his tenderneſs in a ſituation that demands it more than almoſt any other.

His lady was expected to preſent him with a ſon or daughter every hour; and his mother, who was in the houſe, obſerved him to be ſilent and thoughtful: ſhe wiſhed to raiſe his ſpirits—"Come, ſon Thomas," ſaid ſhe, "don't be diſhearten'd! "your wife, I dare ſay, will ſoon get "the better of it."

"Why mother," replied he, "d'ye "think I'm fretting about that? No: "—to-morrow's the firſt of Septem- "ber; and my beſt bitch, Juno, has "got a thorn run into her foot, and "won't be able to go out this fort- "night."

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

" ——he had been a ſoldier *from* his youth,
" And fought in famous battles,——"

HOME's *Douglas.*

I Next became the property of a ſoldier; not one of Shakſpeare's,

" full of ſtrange oaths, and bearded like a pard,—"

though, as the ſequel will ſhew, he was nicely and properly " jealous in " honour."

He was deſcended from a reſpectable family in Northumberland, had received a good education, and, through the

the intereſt of ſome friends, had a commiſſion given him at the age of ſixteen. His conduct and bravery being highly approved of in two or three engagements, he roſe a ſtep higher, being made Lieutenant.

In the hope that in due time he might obtain ſtill higher preferment, he married the woman who was miſtreſs of his affections, and who was in every reſpect worthy of his love.

She was the only child of a rich father, who, unfortunately for them (though he had nothing to urge againſt the lieutenant but his want of an eſtate), diſapproved of the match, would not be prevailed upon to ſee them, and refuſed to give them a ſingle ſhilling.

This,

This, hard as it was, they were at that time, in ſome meaſure, enabled to bear. His conduct in his regiment ſtill continued moſt meritorious; but, in regard to riſing higher in the army, he experienced the truth of the poet's obſervation——

" Haud facile emergunt quorum virtutibus
" obſtat
" *Res anguſtæ* domi."

In ſhort, after having been married ten years, in which time he had ſtruggled with many difficulties, he found himſelf, at the end of that period, reduced to half-pay, with a wife and four children, and encumbered with ſome debts which he had unavoidably contracted.

This,

This, had he been the only ſufferer, he could have borne with fortitude; but the thought of the diſtreſs to which he had reduced his wife, who was born to ſuch high expectations, preyed inceſſantly upon his mind; and the ſweetneſs of diſpoſition which his amiable Eliza poſſeſſed, in attempting to alleviate his ſorrows, gave additional, though unintentional, pangs.

The evening of the day on which I came into his poſſeſſion he went to a billiard-room, near Exeter Change, where an old General and another gentlemen were playing.

In the courſe of the game the former inadvertently laid his purſe on a chair, and ſoon after, on his going to take

take it up, in order to pay off his loſſes, the purſe was miſſing.

He immediately aſked the marker, if he had taken it into his care?—The anſwer was in the negative.—There were ſeveral by-ſtanders in the room, to whom he of courſe mentioned the circumſtance. One gentleman propoſed that, as the matter was of that nature which muſt inevitably throw an unpleaſant ſuſpicion on ſeveral innocent perſons if it was not cleared up, he thought it right that the pockets of every perſon preſent ſhould be ſearched.

The propoſal was acceded to by moſt of them; and I was not a little ſurprized to hear my owner object to it.

His

His dreſs, though neat, carried with it the appearance of poverty; and this, added to his objection to being ſearched, threw the ſuſpicion directly and pointedly on him.

Some of the company began to be clamorous; but, with an air that awed them into ſilence, "Gentlemen," ſaid he, "I have had the honour of ſerving "his Majeſty; I need not therefore "inform you, that I will not put up "with an inſult from any man living. "I pledge my honour, I have not "ſeen the purſe; but, to obviate "entirely ſuch an injurious ſuſpicion, "I conſent that the gentleman who "has loſt it ſhall ſearch my pockets— "but privately, and in another room. "His report, on his return, will then "either acquit or condemn me."

Forcibly ſtruck with the manner in which this was ſpoken, the General haſtily replied, " By no means—I " would not allow myſelf, even for a " moment, to ſuſpect the honour of " a brother ſoldier."

But, recollecting himſelf (whilſt he perceived a viſible glow of emotion in the countenance of the Lieutenant, that thanked him better than words could have done)—" On a ſecond " thought," ſaid he, " it is a piece " of juſtice due to the feelings of this " gentleman, that I *ſhould* retire with " him. He has been ſuſpected, and " he ought to be as publicly cleared. " But let me previouſly affirm, that " *my* ſuſpicion cannot be leſs than it " is at this moment."

The

The General and Lieutenant then went into another room. The latter turned alternately pale and red—at length, burſting into tears, " This " is unmanly," ſaid he—" but it is " the thought of what extreme diſ- " treſs thoſe who are dear to me muſt " undergo before I could deſcend to " this—" pulling out a paper in which was wrapped the half of a fowl: "This," continued he, " was part of a dinner of " which I partook to-day at the requeſt " of two friends. They were ſuddenly " called out on particular buſineſs, " but promiſed to return in an hour. " In their abſence I took this up from " the table. I could not, ſir—I could " not bear the idea, that I was to be " feaſted (though at a friend's ex- " pence) abroad, whilſt my wife and

 " children

" children were left without a morſel
" at home."

The General pauſed a few moments—

" May I aſk your name?"

" Certainly, ſir:—'tis M——."

" Have you ſerved abroad?"

" I have—at the battles of ——
" and ——."

The General pauſed again.—" It
" is far from my wiſh, ſir, to hurt the
" delicacy of any man—but, if you
" will do me the favour to *borrow*
" this note of me, I give you my
" word, I offer it with the idea of be-
" ing

" ing repaid, though it may not,
" poſſibly, be ſo ſoon as you would
" wiſh.—Nay, ſir, you muſt take it—
" and let me have the pleaſure of
" your company, at breakfaſt, on
" Saturday, in —— ſquare."

The reader may conceive the effect which ſuch generous behaviour produced in the mind of the Lieutenant.

He was about to thank his benefactor, but was interrupted: " Not
" now, ſir—in a few days it may per-
" haps be in my power to do ſome-
" thing for you worthy of your ac-
" knowledgements:—in that caſe, I
" will not mortify you ſo far as not
" to receive them."

[Now this, thought I, is right; for, when a man has nothing but thanks to return for a weighty obligation, we ought to accept them: we ought to conquer *our own* feelings, that we may afford ſome eaſe to thoſe of the perſon on whom the obligation is conferred.]

They then went back into the billiard-room; but the Lieutenant's innocence had been already juſtified, as the purſe and its contents had been found in a part of the room where it was obſerved he had never been.

Not to dwell too long on a circumſtance that reflected honour on both parties, the General, on enquiring into the character of my owner, and finding it unexceptionable, not only gave him a Captain's commiſſion in his own regiment, but, by the interference of

of friends, effected for him a reconciliation with his wife's father, who has made ſome amends for his former injuſtice, by giving up to him an eſtate in Kent, worth near four hundred a year.

With the Lieutenant I at preſent remain. Whether I am doomed to meet with more adventures, I know not—ſufficiently happy if theſe which I have related ſhall afford ſome amuſement to thoſe good-natured readers, who, as Sterne obſerves, are willing "to be pleaſed they know not why, "and care not wherefore."

THE END.

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Here lies the Body of Sam
Stokes. who lived and died
like other folks — —